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LOS ANGELES
SMITH LEVIES STRONGEST ATTACK YET
BY KATHY HORAK

U.S. Attorney General William French Smith levied his strongest attack yet against the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, charging Friday that it has acted quickly only on "well-lobbied special interest legislation."

Smith's speech to an American Bar Association meeting amplified a tactic the Reagan administration has used in the early rounds of the 1984 presidential race: trying to portray the Democratic challengers as responsive only to special interest groups while ignoring the national interest.

He cited what he called the House's lack of response to the U.S. Supreme Court's call for changes in the 1978 Bankruptcy Reform Act, its failure to deal with the Department of Justice's request for more federal judgeships and House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill's refusal to call a floor vote on an immigration reform bill.

Smith declined specific comment on a federal judge's order Thursday that he investigate whether the administration was violating the Neutrality Act by continuing CIA backing for some 15,000 rightist insurgents trying to topple Nicaragua's Marxist Sandinista regime. The Neutrality Act bars paramilitary intervention in countries where the United States is not at war.

The House has twice voted to cut off CIA backing for the rightist rebels, and U.S. Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif., filed the civil suit that now leaves Smith 90 days to launch a probe or appoint a special prosecutor to do so.

"I haven't received the (judge's) opinion yet, but it sounds a little weird," Smith said before his speech. "We'll handle it the way we would handle any other decision of this kind. We'll review it and decide the steps."

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